

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

CU-02 /073 W

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O P 231000Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7522

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

US MISSION BERLIN

US INTERESTS SECTION BAGHDAD PRIORITY 7

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, CZ, SW

SUBJECT: OCCUPATION OF SWEDISH EMBASSY BY KURDISH STUDENTS

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1. SUMMARY: THIRTY KURDISH STUDENTS OCCUPIED THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN PRAGUE JANUARY 22 FROM MID-DAY UNTIL 8 P. M. PURPOSE WAS TO SECURE RELEASE OF ANOTHER KURDISH STUDENT RECENTLY ARRESTED IN PRAGUE AND SCHEDULED FOR DEPORTATION TO IRAQ, WHERE HE WAS UNDER DEATH SENTENCE. CZECH AUTHORITIES WERE COOPERATIVE, AND STUDENT IN QUESTION WAS RELEASED AND JOINED HIS COMRADES AT SWEDISH EMBASSY. AFTER RECEIVING GUARANTEES THAT THEY TOO WOULD NOT BE ARRESTED OR DEPORTED, STUDENTS DEPARTED PEACEFULLY. END SUMMARY.

2. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR PROVIDED FULL ACCOUNT OF OCCUPATION OF HIS EMBASSY JANUARY 22 BY 30 KURDISH STUDENTS. (BY CHANCE, CHARGE WAS TO CALL ON SWEDISH AMBASSADOR AT 4 P.M., AND CAME TO EMBASSY ONLY TO BE TURNED AWAY AT DOOR BY AGITATED SECRETARY. (AMBASSADOR CALLED LATER TO APOLOGIZE AND PROVIDE DETAILS.) AMBASSADOR CRAFOORD SAID STUDENTS RATHER CLEVERLY INFILTRATED EMBASSY SINGLY AND IN SMALL GROUPS, OSTENSIBLY TO SECURE VISA ASSISTANCE; WHEN ALL 30 (OUT OF TOTAL 37 KURDISH STUDENTS IN PRAGUE, THEY SAID) WERE IN, THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD OCCUPY EMBASSY UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS WERE MET. THROUGHOUT THEY WERE POLITE AND REASONABLE, AND NO ONE AMONG SWEDES EVER FELT IN ANY DANGER.

3. THERE WERE THREE DEMANDS: (A) RELEASE AND NON-DEPORTATION OF STUDENT RECENTLY ARRESTED BY CZECHS IN PRAGUE WHO WAS UNDER DEATH SENTENCE IN IRAQ. (REASON FOR HIS ARREST IS NOT KNOWN.) (B) GUARANTEE THAT NONE OF THE OTHER KURDISH STUDENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD BE DEPORTED TO ANY COUNTRY WHERE THEIR LIVES MIGHT BE IN DANGER. (C) NO PUNISHMENT FOR OCCUPATION OF SWEDISH EMBASSY. ONCE AMBASSADOR CRAFOORD WAS APPRISED OF DEMANDS UPON HIS RETURN TO OFFICE ABOUT 4 P.M., HE GOT IN TOUCH WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VEJVODA AT MFA, WHO HANDLED MATTER PERSONALLY AND EFFECTIVELY. (HE AND ANOTHER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER REMAINED AT MFA AND ON PHONE UNTIL MATTER WAS RESOLVED.) CZECHS WERE QUITE REASONABLE, CRAFOORD SAID, AND ARRANGED IMMEDIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELEASE OF ARRESTED STUDENT PLUS OTHER GUARANTEES SOUGHT BY THE GROUP. THEY THEN LEFT PEACEFULLY, WITHOUT EVER MAKING ANY THREATS OR BEHAVING IN ANY THREATENING WAY.

4. AMBASSADOR CRAFOORD SAID STUDENTS TOLD HIM "THEIR ORGANIZATION" DIRECTED THEM TO OCCUPY SWEDISH EMBASSY, AFTER PLEAS HAD FAILED TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF ARRESTED STUDENT. APPARENTLY THEY WERE IN TOUCH WITH THEIR

ORGANIZATION IN LONDON AND WEST BERLIN FOR INSTRUCTIONS.
(STUDENTS WERE NATIONALS OF IRAQ, IRAN AND TURKEY.)
THEIR ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PRESS IN
ORDER TO PUBLICIZE THE EVENT, CRAFOORD SAID.
PERRY

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